



Idaho State Department of Agriculture
Division of Agricultural Resources

CAFO Siting Team
Annual Report for 2007

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On July 1, 2001, the "Site Advisory Suitability Determination Act" became law creating a confined animal feeding operation (CAFO) site advisory team comprised of members from the Idaho State Department of Agriculture, Department of Water Resources, and the Department of Environmental Quality. The rules governing the CAFO site advisory team are followed to provide "suitability determinations" on proposed livestock operations based on environmental risk. The suitability determination is provided to the county for their consideration when deliberating conditional use or livestock confinement operation permits.

IDAPA 02.04.18 states that a board of county commissioners may request the formation of a CAFO site advisory team to provide a site suitability determination for all proposed CAFO sites. The team then develops and submits to the county a site suitability determination that contains three parts:

1. Risk Category: A determination of an environmental risk category: high, moderate, low, or insufficient information to make a determination.
2. Description of Factors: A description of the factors that contribute to the environmental risks.
3. Mitigation: Any possible mitigation of the environmental risks.

Risk Category is determined through the combination of a point-based scoring system and professional judgment. The score sheet is divided into two sections consisting of environmental questions followed by a section of proposed management questions. Points are tallied in both sections and the final score, along with professional judgment, is used to assign a Risk Category. It is then the responsibility of the consultant and the county to ensure proper mitigation of environmental risk beyond that required by state and local regulations.

The CAFO Siting Team has conducted 94 site assessments since 2001 (Figure 1). The number of ratings by risk category are 72 low risks (77%), 20 moderate risks (21%), and 2 high risk (2%). Forty-five of the 94 assessments

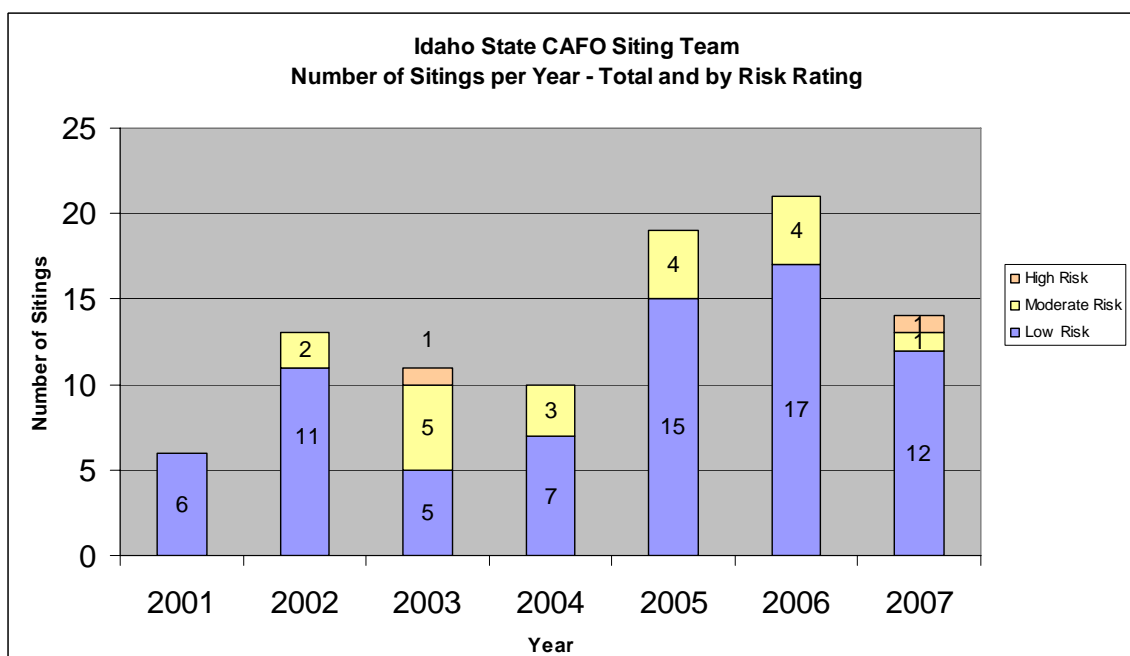


Figure 1. Idaho State CAFO Siting Team Assessments per Year

(48%) were conducted for proposed new facilities and 49 (52%) were conducted for proposed expansions. Twelve counties have requested suitability determinations since 2001 (Table 1). Over two-thirds of the 94 CAFO sitings since 2001 have come from four counties: Jerome 25 (27%), Gooding 16 (17%), Cassia 15 (16%), and Twin Falls 10 (11%).

Table 1. CAFO Suitability Assessments by County Since 2001

County	Total	Low Risk	Moderate Risk	High Risk
Jerome	25	19	6	0
Gooding	16	14	2	0
Cassia	15	12	3	0
Twin Falls	10	9	0	1
Minidoka	6	5	1	0
Elmore	5	3	2	0
Owyhee	5	1	3	1
Canyon	3	3	0	0
Lincoln	3	2	1	0
Payette	3	1	2	0
Ada	2	2	0	0
Jefferson	1	1	0	0
Total	94	72	20	2

Five counties requested suitability determinations in 2007 (Table 2). Approximately 64% of the 14 CAFO sitings in 2007 came from two counties: 5 (38%) in Gooding and 4 (24%) in Cassia. These two counties, Gooding and Cassia, also had the most requests in 2006, with 5 and 8 respectively.

Table 2. CAFO Suitability Assessments by County in 2007

County	Total	Low Risk	Moderate Risk	High Risk
Gooding	5	5	0	0
Cassia	4	3	1	0
Jerome	3	3	0	0
Owyhee	1	0	0	1
Twin Falls	1	1	0	0
Total	14	12	1	1

Summary

The Idaho State CAFO Siting Team conducted 14 site assessments in 2007 and 94 total assessments since 2001. A majority of suitability ratings since 2001 have been low risk (77%), approximately a fifth have been moderate risk (21%), and two sites were high risk (2%). Four counties (Jerome, Gooding, Cassia, and Twin Falls) account for over two-thirds of the assessments since the inception of the Site Advisory Suitability Determination Act in 2001. The number of sitings has increased each year from 2004 through 2006, with more than 20 assessments requested for the first time in 2006. This trend reversed with a decrease in the number of CAFO sitings to 14 in 2007.